

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-17 and 19-20, 22-24, and 26-27, and 29 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19-20, 23, and 24 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 15, 21, 25, and 28 have been cancelled in the interest of expediting prosecution.

The Office Action objected to the claims, with the contention that “the potential” and “the power supply voltage” constituted “informalities.” While not agreeing that these expressions constituted informalities or caused possible confusion, in the interest of expediting prosecution the Examiner’s suggestions have been adopted in the above amendments. Consequently this objection is overcome.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-9, 14, 17 and 19-20, 22, 24, and 26-27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention, due to the recitation of the “first circuit,” the “first element,” and the “second element.” By the above amendments, this has been clarified, overcoming this rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, and 8-9 were indicated to be allowable, subject to overcoming the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Since this has been done, these claims are now allowable.

Claims 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kraus et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,229,710. Claims 14, 17, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraus et al. in view of Oda, U.S. Patent No. 6,011,429. Claims 12 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

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over Kraus et al. and “the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art.” Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraus et al. in view of Oda. Claims 19, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraus et al., in view of Oda and “the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art.”

It is noted that under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), a patent may not be obtained if the differences between the claimed subject matter as a whole and the prior art would have been obvious “to a person of ordinary skill in the art”. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 12 and 26 is understood to be under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kraus et al., and the rejection of claims 19, 27, and 29 is understood to be under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kraus et al. in view of Oda. Should anything further be intended by the inclusion in the rejection of “the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art,” clarification is requested.

Claims 15, 21, 25, and 28 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. By the above amendments, the essential subject matter of claims 15, 21, 25, and 28 has been incorporated into their respective base claims 10, 17, 12, and 19, including incorporation of the relevant limitations of any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 10, 12, 17, and 19 are allowable, as are their respective dependent claims 13, 14, 16, 20, 22-24, and 26-27 and 29.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-17 and 19-20, 22-24, and 26-27 and 29, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in

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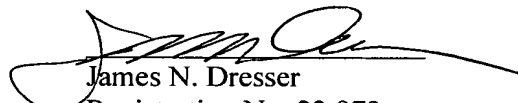
condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,


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